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OUR NATIONAL WAR MEMORIALS IN EUROPE

By JOHN J. PERSHING

General of the Armies of the United States

Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission

WHEN the thunder of cannon ceased along the battle front on that historic day of November 11, 1918, and peace came again to the war-spent world, more than 80,000 members of the American Expeditionary Forces had valourously given their lives to the cause.

To-day 30,880 of them sleep in beautiful and peaceful cemeteries in the areas where they were engaged and stately monuments mark the chief theaters of American activity.

In order that the gallant achievements and noble sacrifices of our troops might be suitably commemorated, the American Battle Monuments Commission was created by an act of Congress approved March 4, 1923. Those now serving with me on the Commission, appointed by the President, are Robert G. Woodside, Vice Chairman; David A. Reed, John Philip Hill, D. John Markey, Elms J. Garrett, Mrs. Henry Fenimore Baker, and Maj. X. H. Price, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Secretary. It has been both an honor and pleasure to have been associated with them in the development of the extensive memorial project that has now become a realization.

TOWERING MONUMENTS AND ENDURING SHRINES

Eight memorial chapels, of singular beauty and dignity, now stand in the eight American military cemeteries in France, Belgium, and England. Eleven monuments rise on the principal American battlefields and at certain chief bases of our operations. Two of these, one at Brest and

the other at Gibraltar, have been built in tribute to the achievements of our Navy's World War forces (see Color Plate VI and illustrations, pages 6 and 15).

In size and design the battlefield monuments range from the towering Doric shaft, topped by a statue, on the dominating hill of Montfaucon, to the simple, effective monument, near the town of Ypres, with its low lines blending with the plains of Belgium.

The imposing monument on Hill 204, near Château-Thierry; the majestic circular colonnade on Montsec, in the St. Mihiel region (see Color Plates IV and V), and the other memorials in their size are proportionally representative of the strategical importance and greatness of the operations conducted in those areas by American military forces.

On many of these monuments have been inscribed the names of places where the troops engaged in heavy fighting. Orientation tables assist the visitor in identifying these positions on the landscape, and maps engraved on the walls indicate the progress of the offensives, as well as the divisions which took part. Decorative features also show the insignia of the divisions and larger units, types of equipment used by the American soldiers, and the coats of arms of the United States and Allied nations.

The chapels in the military cemeteries likewise vary widely in design. Each is a gem of architectural beauty and an enduring shrine consecrated to the memory of those who fell in battle. On their walls are carved the names of the 1,289 men



Photograph from Wide World

GOLD STAR MOTHERS ABOARD THE S. S. "GEORGE WASHINGTON"

In four years nearly 7,000 mothers and widows of American soldiers have journeyed to France as guests of the United States Government.

whose final resting places are unknown and of all those whose marble headstones bear the inscription, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." This inscription, prepared by the Commission, was afterward engraved on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

At each of the cemeteries beautiful and comfortable reception rooms have been established near to or in connection with the caretaker's offices for the convenience of visitors and those desiring information regarding the soldier dead.

All of the memorials were designed by carefully selected American architects of note, whose work has more than justified the confidence that the Commission has reposed in them. Each memorial, too, was planned with full consideration of the inherent beauty of the particular position it occupies. In every case infinite care has been exercised in the selection of the quality and in the utilization of the stone, marble,

and other materials that have gone into their construction.

THREE MAJOR THEATERS OF ACTION

The high standards and perfection of detail attained in the successful completion of the work are due in great measure to the untiring efforts of Major Price, who has been in active charge of the work in Europe since 1927; of Dr. Paul P. Cret, the Commission's consulting architect; and the following officers of the Regular Army who have served from time to time in the European office: First Lieut. Thomas North, F. A.; Capt. H. Jones, C. E.; Maj. D. D. Eisenhower, Inf.; Capt. G. A. Hoffman, Q. M. C.; Capt. H. W. Beyette, Q. M. C.; Maj. W. D. Styer, C. E.; First Lieut. R. A. Schow, Inf.; Maj. W. E. Teale, C. E.; Maj. R. G. Moses, C. E.; First Lieut. J. R. Vance, Inf.; Capt. G. F. Hobson, Q. M. C.; and First Lieut. L. J. Rumaggi, C. E.

The general locations of the major bat-

Photograph from *Wide World***TWO FAMOUS SOLDIERS HONOR THEIR FALLEN COMRADES**

The late Marshal Foch and General Pershing visit the Suresnes Cemetery near Paris. At each grave the French and American colors stand side by side.

defield memorials are enduring reminders of the three historic localities on the Western Front where American forces in large numbers engaged in active combat. These are known as the Aisne-Marne, the Meuse-Argonne, and the St. Mihiel battlefields. Only the last named of these areas was in Lorraine, that part of eastern France set aside in the summer of 1917 as the concentration area for the American Army.

The British Army had been established in the northern part of the long battle lines, near the Channel ports, thus protecting its direct line of communication with the British Isles. The French Army protected Paris, the most vital locality in France.

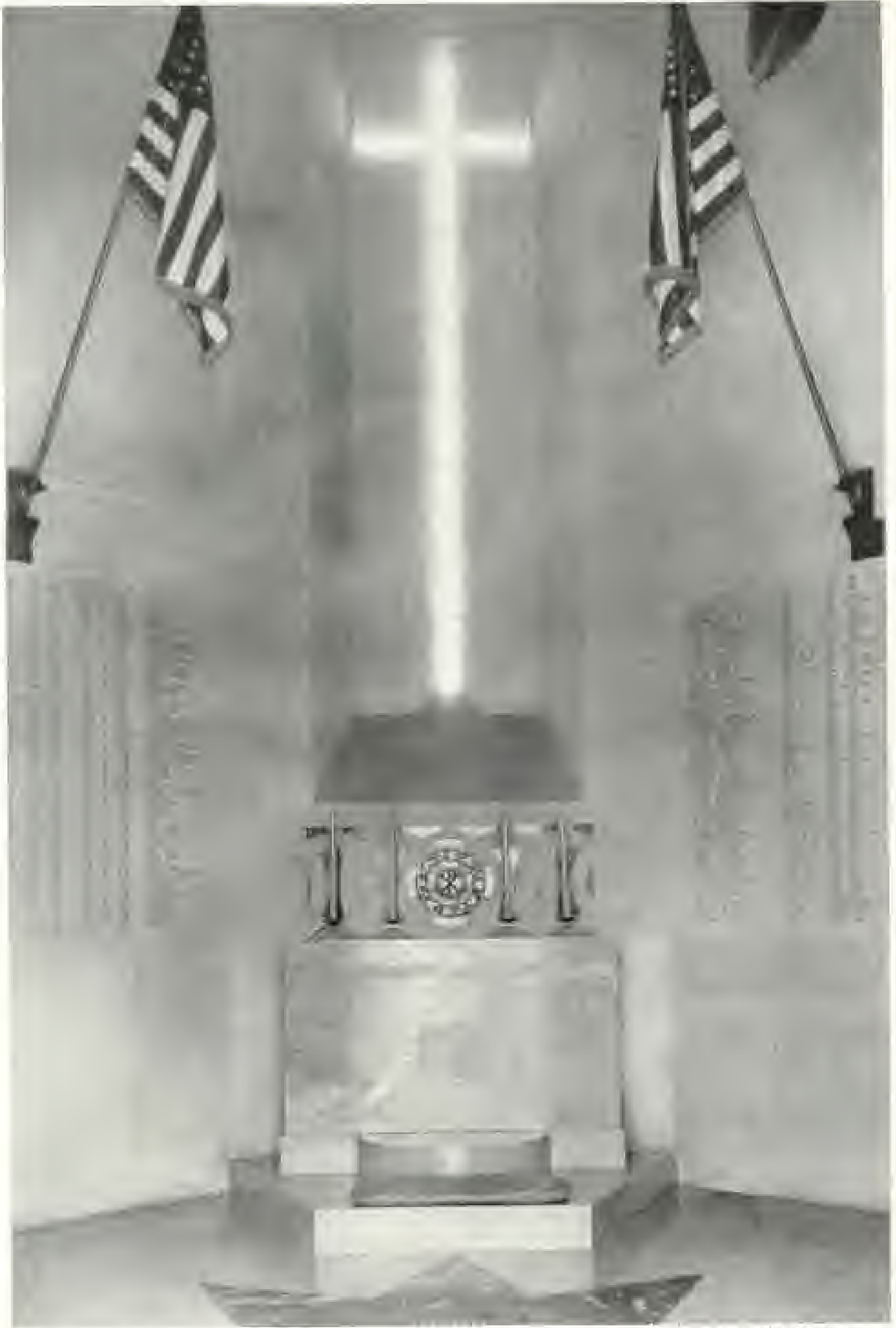
The American Army was assembled well to the east of Paris, where it could be supplied by the railways leading from the comparatively unused South Atlantic ports of France, thus avoiding the congested area around Paris (see map, page 9).

Early in 1918, while the American Army was being built up in this section, the

Germans commenced their series of major offensives. Available American troops were immediately turned over to the Allied Commander in Chief to use as he saw fit. To help stop the enemy drive of May 27, which started north of the Aisne River, American divisions were hurried into line in the vicinity of Chateau-Thierry, directly across the German line of advance toward Paris.

Other American divisions took part in the great counter-offensive which began July 18, 1918, and within three weeks had driven the enemy to the north of the Vesle River. The American First, Second, Third, Fourth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-eighth, Thirty-second, Forty-second, and Seventy-seventh Divisions took part in the battles which raged in this vicinity. Of the 300,000 Americans participating in these operations, 64,000 became casualties.

Therefore, on historic Hill 204, rising just west of Chateau-Thierry, has been constructed an imposing memorial, with



Photograph by W. Robert Maurer

THE SUN'S RAYS CREATE A CROSS

Light through a crystal-clear window produces this striking effect in the Bony Chapel (see Color Plates III and V).

twin rows of majestic columns (see Color Plate IV and illustrations, pages 8, 10, and 11).

War has come before to Château-Thierry. The town had its origin in a Gallo-Roman village known as Otinus, and was destroyed by the Huns in the fifth century. Early in the eighth century, Charles Martel, whose victory over the Saracens had given him control of the region, built a castle there as a residence for King Thierry IV.

On many occasions through the passing centuries the castle was damaged and rebuilt. Normans, Danes, the English, and pillaging bands all had their turn at spreading destruction and terror in the vicinity.

JOAN OF ARC KNEW CHÂTEAU-THIERRY

Through the castle's Gate of St. Pierre, the only gate still standing in the historic pile which rises on the hillside, rode Joan of Arc in 1429.*

The site of the monument commands a sweeping view of the Marne Valley, in an area rich in fields of grain, sugar beets, and vineyards, flecked with quaint towns and quiet villages, crisscrossed by little streams.

Here devastation stalked with the progress of battle. Every town was a target for artillery. Farms were furrowed with myriads of trenches and subterranean shelters, subsoil was turned up over formerly fertile land, fields were implanted with barbed wire and sown with shell fragments.

To-day most of the towns are restored, the refuse of the battlefield has been cleared away, and the countryside is as peaceful as it was when the famous native son of Château-Thierry, Jean de La Fontaine, according to tradition, sat under a shade tree on this very hill, now called "204," and wrote many of his immortal fables.

There would be little in this vicinity in years to come to remind American pilgrims of the heroic deeds of their countrymen who fought in the Aisne-Marne region were it not for the monument and the two American military cemeteries.

One is located at the northern side of the hill on which stands the famous Belleau Wood. The other is near Fère-en-Tardenois, just north of the Ourcq River (see Color Plates I and VII).

In the Aisne-Marne Cemetery at Belleau

nearly 2,500 marble crosses and stars form curving rows around the base of the hill, while from the center of the hillside rises the chapel of tranquil beauty.

The Oise-Aisne, near Fère, is the second largest of the American cemeteries abroad, with 6,012 battle dead resting within its confines.

Built in the form of a curving colonnade, and flanked at the ends by a chapel and a museum, the memorial possesses a distinctive charm. Here color is dominant. The walls of pink and gray sandstone and the many hued French and Italian marble columns form a striking frame for the exterior altar of highly polished golden granite from the Côte d'Or. In the four medallions above the columns, and just beneath the commemorative inscription, the modern soldier is contrasted with the medieval Crusader. All of the decorative sculpture is characteristically Romanesque in style, but modern in subject. Thin sheets of onyx have been utilized for windows in the chapel and museum.

YANKES ATTACK AT ST. MIHIEL

The first operation of a complete American Army as an independent unit in the World War was the attack of September 12, 1918, in the St. Mihiel region, which lies southeast of Verdun, between the Meuse and Moselle Rivers.

German attacks early in the war had driven a wedge between Verdun on the Meuse and Pont-à-Mousson on the Moselle. The apex of the wedge included St. Mihiel, about 20 miles south of Verdun. This sector, occupied by the Germans for about four years, was the St. Mihiel salient.

A study of a map will show how geography generally determines the strategy of war as well as the commerce of peace time. The envioning hills to the east and west dictated that the main attack should be delivered northward. The First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Twenty-sixth, Forty-second, Seventy-eighth, Eighty-second, Eighty-ninth, and Ninetieth Divisions took part in the offensive, in which approximately 550,000 Americans were engaged.

The American Second Army was organized in this region a month afterward, in October, 1918, and later the Seventh, Twenty-eighth, Thirty-third, and Ninety-second Divisions undertook a general attack in the direction of Metz. The signing of the Armistice halted that battle.

* See "The Maid of France Rides By," by IRENE BULLINGTON BYRD, in the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, November, 1933.



TO THE MEN WHO FOUGHT AT SEA

At Gibraltar, wartime base of many an American raid on U-boats, this masonry archway and flights of steps have been built to commemorate activities of the United States Navy in this locality. The photograph was taken from the naval yards side, below the town. The architect, Paul P. Cret, of Philadelphia.



Photograph from American Battle Monuments Commission

ROLLS OF SOLDIERS "KNOWN BUT TO GOD"

This pillared promenade is one of the loggias of the chapel in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. Fourteen panels in the back walls speak in invocation of 885 American soldiers who fell in the Meuse-Argonne and whose final resting places are still unknown (see Color Plates II and III).



Photograph from American Battle Monuments Commission

THE COUNTRYSIDE STILL BEARS THE BRANDS OF WAR

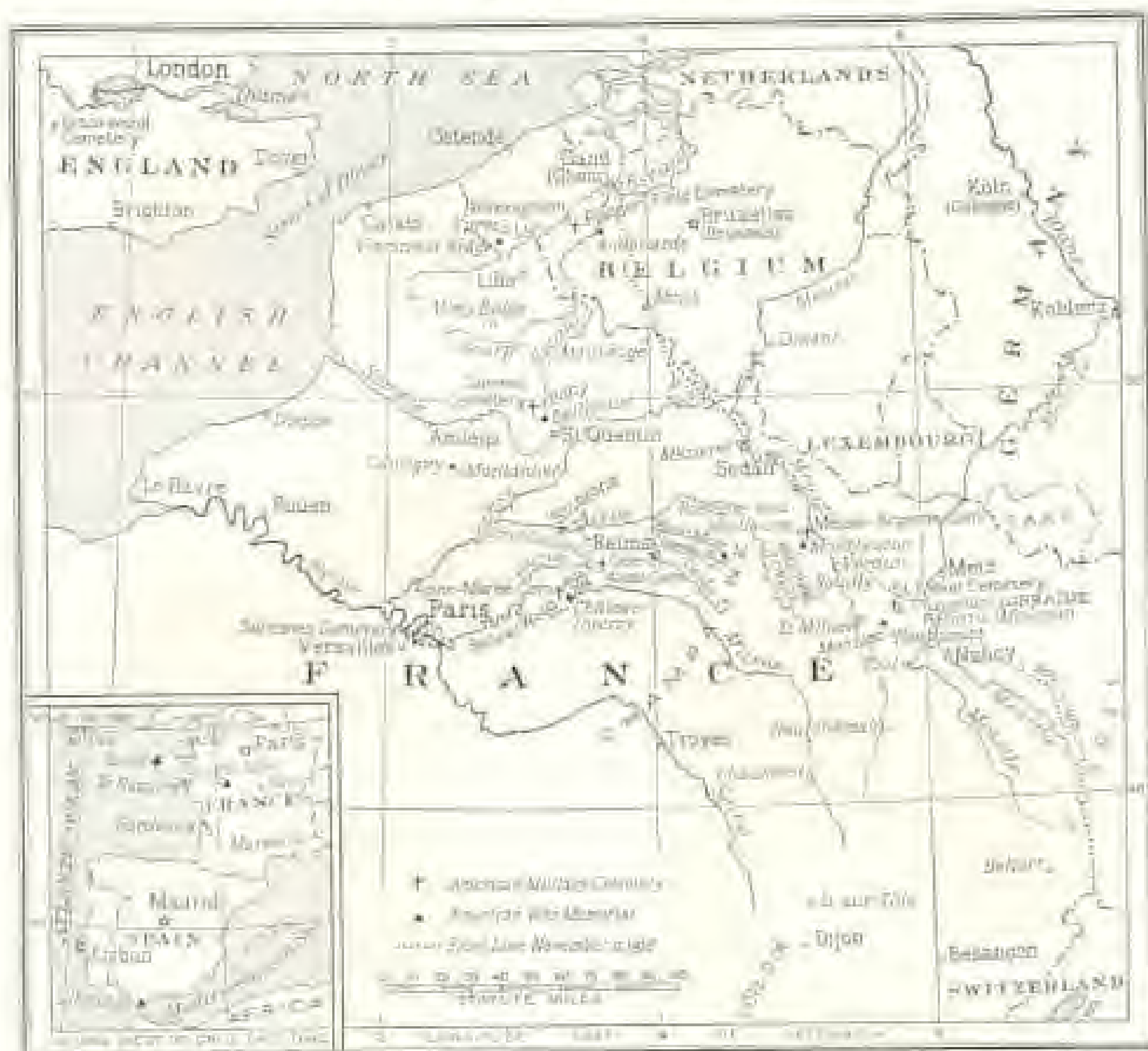
Graves and ruins stand like grim reminders of the conflict, as one looks southward from the hill of Montjaume, around which swirled some of the fiercest fighting of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive (see text, page 15, and illustration, page 11).



Photograph by W. R. R. Moore

BATTLE DETAILS GRAPHICALLY PORTRAYED

On the east face of the Chateau-Thierry Monument on Hill 204, the American eagle and shield rise above an engraved map and an orientation table which indicates the valley, towns, and centers of severe encounter (see Color Plate IV and Illustrations, pages 10 and 11). At the left, along the base, appear the names and insignia of divisions and corps which participated.



Drawn by Louis M. Dancy

ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT TO-DAY

This map shows how memorials to the deeds of the American Expeditionary Forces are distributed in Europe as a result of the efforts of the American Battle Monuments Commission, under the chairmanship of General John J. Pershing. The American cemeteries also are shown.

These operations, and the services of American units in the quiet sectors to the southeast and in the Vosges Mountains, are commemorated by an imposing memorial on the isolated hill, Montsec, located a few miles east of St. Mihiel and lying close to the southern face of the salient, in the area liberated by the American offensive of September 12 (see Color Plate V and illustration, page 14).

For miles around it dominates the landscape, yet when one passes between the pylons and mounts the steps leading to the topmost flight of the approach, the majesty and impressiveness of the monument assume even more surprising proportions.

Girdling the structure above the mighty columns is a frieze, which includes the

names of some of the places where Americans had intense fighting. The central feature within the circle of columns is a large bronze relief map of the triangular-shaped St. Mihiel region, and on its borders are small key maps in colored porcelains, with decorative motifs into which have been worked the insignia of the larger units of the American Army.

The American and French units which took part in these important offensive operations are listed on the attic wall.

A MIGHTY STRONGHOLD FALLS

The old road of the Romans passed by Montsec; here, on this hill, they established a military camp where lived the troops who guarded the historic route. In 1914 it was



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

As the French and American troops had pressed forward side by side in the fiercely contested Marne effort, so two figures of heroic size, symbolic of the two Nations, stand with hands clasped at the front of the Chateau-Thierry Monument. Above the columns are inscribed the names of places where the fighting was intense.



Photograph by W. Robert Morris

AMERICANS ENSHINED IN ABODE OF FRANCE'S OWN IMMORTALS

On the hill above Château-Thierry, where in centuries past Joan of Arc donned her armor and La Fontaine wrote his fables, stands this monument to the valor of American soldiers in 1918 (see Color Plate IV and Illustration, pages 8 and 10, and text, page 5).

captured by the enemy, and because of its natural strength and the facilities afforded by its imposing height of more than 400 feet above the surrounding plain, it became a very important point of their defense system. On the southeast side the hill was heavily wired and entrenched, and on the opposite slope tunnels led to underground billets and to observation posts, from which the fire of their artillery was controlled. Some of the remnants of these still remain.

How different from the panorama of peaceful agricultural activity now unfolded from this height was that dramatic scene revealed at 1 o'clock in the morning of September 12, fifteen years ago, when the countryside was dotted with flashes of flame, as nearly three thousand pieces of artillery belched forth a violent bombardment! Hundreds of thousands of shells

crashed into the hostile battery emplacements, observation posts, communication centers, and trenches. A well-laid smoke screen hovered around Montsec to prevent enemy observers from seeing and reporting details of the American advance.

Expecting an attack on this sector, the enemy, a few hours before, had begun a retirement and the creation of a 10-mile-wide band of devastated territory. The great weight and suddenness of the attack, however, caught the enemy by surprise, and the scheme came to naught. More than 200 square miles of territory were restored to France, the railroads in the vicinity were cleared, and the threat of the salient against surrounding territory was removed.

Of the orientation arrows around the outer edge of the platform on the Montsec



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

A NEW "STATUE OF LIBERTY" OVERLOOKS A FAMOUS BATTLEFIELD

On the hill of Montfaucon, northwest of Verdun, towers this 175-foot column of granite, surmounted by a figure symbolic of Liberty. Marking a strategic point in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne, where the bulk of American military power was concentrated, it is the largest of the battle-monument projects undertaken by the United States in Europe. The architect, John Russell Pope, of New York.



VISITING THEIR BOYS' GRAVES WITH A DISTINGUISHED ESCORT

General Pershing shows Gold Star Mothers through the Aisne-Marne Cemetery at Bellau on Memorial Day, 1930. The American Graves Registration Service was charged with the duty of conducting them from place to place and with caring for the cemeteries and memorials.

Monument, none bears the significance of the one which points northeast toward Thiancourt. There, a little more than eight miles away, the marble chapel and the 4,152 headstones of the St. Mihiel Cemetery gleam white, as the sunshine strikes them through openings in the drifting clouds (see Color Plate VIII and illustration, page 26).

Here, at Thiancourt, is the third largest of the American military cemeteries. The graves lie in a large rectangular area, cut by tree-bordered walks and beds of flowers. At one end stands a cross-shaped monument, on the front of which is a compelling statue depicting the typical youthful American soldier, with trench helmet in hand and side arms and canteen slung on his waist and shoulder.

THE DRIVE THAT ENDED THE WAR

At the north end, beyond the eagle-shaped central sundial of stone, stands the chapel, an open, circular colonnade, or

peristyle, flanked by a chapel room and a museum. The chapel interior contains richly colored mosaics, which include, above the carved altar, the Angel of Victory.

On the museum wall is featured a large map, of inlaid marble, showing the American operations in the St. Mihiel salient. Polished black marble tablets, which panel the side walls, bear in gold letters the names of the men who engaged in the attack and still are unidentified or missing. In the center of the peristyle is a large urn, carved from a single block of granite. Pegasus, the winged horse, which appears on the front of it, represents the soul in flight.

When Marshal Foch decided on a mighty convergent movement against the enemy armies in the autumn of 1918, he planned for an American-French operation between the Meuse River and Reims, directed at Sedan and Mézières, on the railroad that formed the vital connection between the German armies in eastern France and those



Photograph by W. Robert Meade

A NEW GENERATION VISITS A HISTORIC SPOT

These French boys were unborn when the Americans launched their successful surprise attack on the St. Mihiel salient on September 12, 1918. They pause at the base of the flagpole in front of the majestic monument erected on Montsec to commemorate this and other heroic achievements in the region. The dominating hill, now topped by this memorial, was a key position of the German defense (see Color Plate V).

in Belgium. The French and British were to break through the Hindenburg Line between the Oise and the Scarpe and drive for that railroad at Maubeuge. A third attack was to be made by French, British, and Belgian troops at the left end of the line for the purpose of clearing the Belgian coast.

This mighty drive on all sectors moved forward victoriously to the Armistice.

The Meuse-Argonne region, just west of the Meuse River, was the dramatic theater of offensive combat by the main body of American troops. While our First Army here was driving forward toward Sedan, other American divisions took important parts in the French attack toward Mézières, in the crushing of the Hindenburg Line

near St. Quentin and in freeing the Belgian ports.

The Champagne district, center of the French drive, lies between Reims and the Argonne Forest. A monument to the activities of our troops—the Second, Thirty-sixth, Forty-second, and Ninety-third Divisions—in this area stands on Blanc Mont, near Somme-Py, an elevated position of strategic importance which the opposing forces had held since 1914 (see page 33).

HILL ON WHICH THE KAISER STOOD

Here, it is reported, the Kaiser and General Ludendorff had watched from an observatory their ill-fated attack of July 15, 1918, on which they had desperately staked their last hope for victory.



Photograph by W. Robert Maury

LIKE A WATCHTOWER ATOP THE OLD CITY WALLS

A massive arch on a cobble-street in Brest forms an impressive frame for the naval monument overlooking the famous port of debarkation. The lofty shaft honors the sea forces, through whose efforts a steady stream of men and supplies poured into Brest in the later stages of the war. Stairs in the interior of the monument lead to the top (see Color Plate VI).

Numerous lines of trenches and concrete machine-gun posts were built in the south slope for the protection of the hill. Many of them are still there; even the entrances to the tunnels and the air shafts remain, revealing how the forces had burrowed into the chalky stone to provide bomb-proof underground quarters.

A deep feeling of tribute to American bravery wells up as one looks at the monument of golden-colored stone standing in the midst of this desolation, where bits of gas masks, pieces of leather, and shell carriers still strew the chalky banks of the unfilled trenches.

Blanc Mont, Médéh Farm, Machault, Souain, Séchault, and other names engraved on the monument are of dramatic import.

The observation platform at the top of the memorial affords a good view of the surrounding country. On clear days one can see the lofty commemorative shaft of Montfaucon, 27 miles away.

Between Paris and northern Belgium the areas where American troops were engaged in battle are rather widely separated.

Just north of St. Quentin, in the region of the Somme, the American Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Divisions, forming our Second Corps, went into the front line with the British Army to attack the formidable Hindenburg Line.

On this part of the front the Hindenburg Line followed roughly along the St. Quentin Canal, and made use of that obstacle as a primary feature of its defense system. For more than three miles the canal flows through a historic tunnel, which the enemy converted into a huge underground shelter and storehouse.

They dug comfortable bomb-proof rooms into the tunnel walls, and by means of numerous passageways maintained communication with their machine-gun nests and trenches above ground. Canal boats, tied up in the tunnel, afforded other living quarters and a fully protected magazine for supplies.

Altogether, it was one of their strongest places of defense, but on September 29, when the offensive was launched, the famous Hindenburg Line cracked under the blow. Both American and British losses, however, were severe.

Other American units—the Thirty-third and Eightieth Divisions and the Sixth and Eleventh Engineer regiments—also served

with the British Armies in this part of France.

TO "VALOR" AND "REMEMBRANCE"

The monument commemorating these several activities stands atop the ridge directly over the tunnel that links the Somme and Escaut (see illustration, page 27). This old subterranean water route was begun back in 1769 and, after several interruptions, was completed, in 1810, at the order of Napoleon I.

On the front of the monument is a shield of the United States, surmounted by an American eagle. On either side of this is a figure, one representing Valor, the other symbolic of Remembrance. The opposite face of the monument bears a carved map showing the zone of action of the American Second Corps, and below it on the terrace is a table indicating directions and distances to various places visible in the vicinity.

The Somme American cemetery is located near Bony, not far distant (see Color Plates III and V). At its lower end a simple, effective chapel has been dedicated to those who sleep here. On the outer walls of this structure, the only one of the Commission's projects to display a modernistic trend in architecture, are carvings of military equipment used by the forces.

Within, past the heavy bronze doors, is a room octagonal in shape. The walls bear the rolls of the missing and unknown dead, and above the marble altar is a cross-shaped window of crystal glass, which shines in illuminated radiance against the subdued interior (see illustration, page 4). Light entering the stained-glass windows, that bear the insignia of the various divisions of the American forces, heightens the color in the star-shaped motives of multi-hued marble used for the floor.

Some 40 miles in airline distance southwest of this Somme district lies the little crossroads town of Cantigny.

When the hostile troops made their great attack of March 21, 1918, they drove into the Allied lines a salient southeast of Amiens. When the attack was halted, the enemy line included, near the tip of the salient, this tiny village of Cantigny. Here the First Division went into line in April, 1918, and a month later made the first American divisional attack of the war. Cantigny was captured and held in the face

"TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS"



© National Geographic Society

Picture Described by W. Robert Moore

A MONUMENT IN STONE MARKS A SCENE OF STRIFE

At Belleau Wood, wrested from the Germans in the teeth of fierce machine-gun fire, stands this chapel of French Romanesque design, watching over the Aisne-Marne Cemetery. Above the portal is carved a Crusader in armor, flanked by shields of the United States and France. Trench scenes and articles of military equipment decorate the pilaster capitals at the door and window openings. The architects, Messrs. Cram and Ferguson, of Boston.



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Today Photographed by W. Robert Moore

"FOR THEM THE WARDRUM THUNDER'D NO LONGER"

Thousands who fell in the major offensive of the Meuse-Argonne repose in the largest of their country's cemeteries in France, near Boulogne-sur-Mer. More than 14,200 white marble crosses, and stars of David for the Jewish soldiers, stand row on row. Chapel architects, Messrs. York and Sawyer, of New York.



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"AND THE LATTER-PLAGE WERE BURN'D"

Colors of the principal Allied nations stand behind a simple altar of carved marble in the Romagne Chapel, largest of the American cemetery memorials (see Color Plate II).



Photo: Photographs by W. Robert Moore

THE EAGLE GUARDS A SHINE OF VALOR

Executed in antique bronze, with his wings full spread, he hovers over the massive, star-studded portals of Romagne Chapel (see Color Plate V). The architect, George Howe, of Philadelphia.



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First Photograph by W. Keith Moore

THE CHATEAU-THIERREY MONUMENT LOOKS DOWN UPON THE MANNE

The double colonnade, crowning historic Hill 204, is seen in the distance from a bridge across the quiet river. Dr. Paul P. Cret, who designed this and several of the other memorial structures, also has acted as consulting architect for the American Battle Monuments Commission.



PASTORAL PEACE NOW LIGHS BENEATH THE LOFTY MONUMENT BATTLE MONUMENT

In the latterly contested St. Mihiel salient near Kamlincourt, agriculture is overgrowing the scars of war, but the circular Doric colonnade on the far horizon recalls the past. The architect, Egerton Swatwout, New York.



© National Geographic Society

Picture Photography by W. Robert Moore

THEY HELPED BREAK THE HINDENBURG LINE

Americans killed in the formidable assaults upon the German Army's strongly fortified positions in the Somme region rest in this flower-filled cemetery near Bony. At the right is the somewhat modernistic chapel dedicated to the 48th soldiers who lie here (see Victor Plate III). Chapel architect, George Howe, of Philadelphia.



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Picture Illustration by W. Robert Moore

AT BREST A NAVAL MONUMENT SOARS ABOVE THE HARBOR

In tribute to the wartime services of the Americans and French fleets, this rectangular shaft rises 145 feet above the lower terrace and 100 feet above the weathered walls of the old city fortifications. Its top commands a sweeping panorama of the port, where many of the two million soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces first trod the soil of France. The architect, Ralph Milnam, Chicago.



© National Geographic Society

Finlay Photograph by W. Robert Moore

IN A BATTLEFIELD BRIGHT WITH BLOSSOMS LIES THE PRESBYTERIEN CEMETERY

Across a waving field of clover appears this American military burial ground, second only to the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in size. A majority of the 6,012 resting here fell in the drive across the near-by Ourcy River and between here and the Oise. At the upper end of the cemetery plot of sloping land, won by sharp encounter, stands the chapel of varicolored stone. Chapel architects, Messrs. Cram and Ferguson, Boston.



HERE SLEEP THE AMERICAN HEROES OF ST. MIHIEL.

"Time Will Not Dim the Glory of Their Deeds."

Thus reads the inscription on the large stone shield, carved in the form of a resting American eagle, which stands in the cemetery at Tréancourt. Chapel architect, Thomas Harlan Ellett, of New York.



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Finlay Photographs by W. Robert Moore

JUST OUTSIDE PARIS IS INVOLVED ANOTHER SILENT LEGION.

At Suresnes, on the slopes of Mont Valérien, adjacent to the fortifications of the same name, sleep 1,541 of America's sons, many of whom died in hospitals in or near Paris. The memorial chapel, in early Colonial style, overlooks the Valley of the Seine. Chapel architect, Charles Platt, of New York.

of determined counter-attacks. A simple memorial now stands in a little park area in the center of the village, commemorating the victory (see illustration, page 34).

To the north, in Belgium, there were two American battle areas. One was near battle-wrecked Ypres, where the Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Divisions participated in an advance in the opening phase of the Ypres-Lys Offensive of August, 1918. The memorial, a stone monolith resting on a low terrace, stands on Vierstraat Ridge, on ground that previously had changed hands several times in heavy fighting. A dedicatory inscription in English, French, and Flemish, together with two bayonets in relief and a helmet resting on a wreath, gives tribute to the troops in the sharp encounter. The architect was George Howe, of Philadelphia.

FLANDERS, WHERE THE POPPIES GROW

In October, when the Allied offensive was in progress, the American Thirty-seventh and Ninety-first Divisions were sent to Belgium. Starting some distance to the west of Audenaarde (Oudenaarde), they attacked to the eastward, and, except for a short period of rest, continued operations until the Armistice. Now, in a shady park in this venerable town of Audenaarde, once celebrated for its lovely tapestries, stands the monument commemorating the advance of the two American divisions. The architect was Harry Sternfeld, of Philadelphia.

In the peaceful Flanders Field Cemetery, near Waereghem, rest nearly 400 men who fell in these two operations in Belgium. Masses of fragrant flowers bloom along the pathways that lead into this octagonal plot of ground where the markers extend out in four symmetrical areas beyond the classic memorial chapel (see illustration, page 32). In summer, here and there red poppies thrust through the soft grass that carpets the sacred soil.

On every sector where they were engaged, the American troops acquitted themselves in heroic manner. In the Meuse-Argonne area, however, where our main body of troops was concentrated, was written the foremost chapter in American military history.

Lying between the heavily fortified and naturally impenetrable Argonne Forest to the west and the strongly defended heights of the Meuse to the east was the towering

hill of Montfaucon. The battle which raged in this region from September 26 until the Armistice was marked by incessant attacks of American divisions and the resolute defense of the enemy. To the latter, retirement would mean the eventual severing of the Metz-Sedan-Mauberge railway line, the spinal column of activity for troops and supply movement.

Desperate as was the resistance, the constant progress of our troops could not be checked. On November 7 the American Army held the heights overlooking Sedan; the railway was severed. The 60 miles of railroad in the Valley of the Meuse, between Dinant and Mézières, were filled from end to end with a continuous line of freight trains carrying guns, ammunition, engineering equipment, and other military supplies that the enemy had been unable to get past Sedan.

In this battle more than 900,000 Americans participated at one time; during the operations 123,000 were killed, wounded, or missing.

The site selected for the American memorial in this memorable battlefield was on the hill of Montfaucon, the most prominent feature of the terrain.

A SHAFT IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE

Largest of the war memorials erected by the United States in Europe, this monument, of rose granite from Baveno, Italy, is in the form of a colossal Doric shaft, which rises 175 feet above the ruins of the wartime village of Montfaucon (see illustration, page 12).

At the top of the shaft is an observation balcony, from which the visitor's eye can scan vast stretches of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield. To the south is the region where the American divisions began their attack, and to the northward is visible the location of the famous Hindenburg Line.

The mighty column is surmounted by a statue symbolic of Liberty.

The dedicatory inscription, made of bronze letters inlaid in the granite, forms a central panel on the main terrace. The names Meuse Heights, Barricourt Heights, Romagne Heights, and Argonne Forest, engraved on the base, recall vividly the localities of severe fighting by the 27 divisions of the First Army, enumerated below them. A series of carvings, giving a brief account of the offensive, together with an illustrative map, feature the interior of the



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

"OLD GLORY" FLUTTERS OVER THE CHAPEL AT THIAUCOURT

Beyond the white-marble pillars lie the 4,152 headstones which make the St. Mihiel Cemetery third-largest of the United States military burial places in France.



Photograph by W. Robert Mears

ON THE HINDENBURG LINE

The Bellecourt Monument is built over the St. Quentin Canal, which at this point flows through a historic tunnel employed by the Germans as an important feature in the Hindenburg Line defenses (see text, page 16). The figures flanking the American shield at the front of the memorial are representative of Valor and Remembrance. The architect, Paul P. Cret, of Philadelphia.

vestibule, through which access to the staircase is gained.

Montfaucon was the site of an old market town whose origin is believed to date back more than thirteen eventful centuries. The town grew up around a monastery founded by St. Balderic, son of Sigebert I, King of Austrasia.

Like Château-Thierry, the region about Montfaucon has been the scene of many battles. Here Count Eudes (Odo), in June, 888 or 889, with the aid of several nobles, crushed the Normans with awful slaughter. During the Hundred Years' War, the countryside was frequently ravaged by bands of robbers. Again, during the religious wars of the 16th century, the town was sacked and burned. In 1636 the little town was ravaged, and the fire that was started swept all before it save one home.

Kalkruth and his Prussian troops occupied the place in 1792, during the Valmy campaign.

Finally, in 1914, after the First Battle of the Marne, German troops held the little town, and because of its commanding height

it became an extremely important feature in their scheme of defense.

When our First Army captured it, on September 27, 1918, little remained of the town; four years of bombardment had brought complete destruction.

MARKS OF WAR STILL VISIBLE

A new Montfaucon has been built to the west of the hill. At the base of the American monument, however, the remains of the old church lie in sad ruins. Many of the old bomb-proof shelters, machine-gun emplacements, and other relics of its wartime state still bear mute witness to the thoroughness with which the hill was fortified.

The American cemetery of the Meuse-Argonne is near Romaine-sous-Montfaucon (see Color Plates II and III). The more than 14,200 soldiers who rest on this hillside came from almost every division of the American Expeditionary Forces. Although most of them lost their lives in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of the First Army between September 26 and November 11, 1918, others were brought here from the



Photograph from American Battle Monuments Commission.

AN INTERIOR GLOWS WITH SUBDUED RADIANCE.

Sunlight falling through the bronze entrance screen of the Remanic Chapel in the Mense-Aryenne Cemetery outlines a pattern of finest lace. Over the archway above the chandelier appears this inscription, "God hath taken them unto Himself" (see Color Plates II and III).

area immediately west of the Argonne Forest, from the Vosges Mountains, from occupied Germany, and from Archangel (Arkhangelsk), Russia.

The chapel, which crowns the crest of the ridge, is the largest of the American cemetery memorials and is a beautiful example of modern Romanesque architecture. On the façade, above its striking bronze entrance screen, is the principal decorative detail of the exterior, a sculptural group of figures representing Grief, Fidelity, Remembrance, and Eternal Light. The soft colors of the marble floors blend with the light entering the stained-glass windows (see illustrations, pages 6 and 28).

Doors lead from the chapel proper to the loggias that extend out on either side.

The chapel, landscaping, gateways, and the reception house on the ridge opposite the grave blocks have all been executed with the completeness that befits America's largest military cemetery in France.

Two other cemeteries, one in Suresnes, outside of Paris, and the other at Brookwood, near London, are also places forever American.

At Suresnes the stately pillared chapel stands against a back drop of green foliage on the hillside and affords a splendid view of Paris (see Color Plate VIII and illustration, page 35).

The interior and altar are of colored marbles, illuminated by stained-glass windows, and, in addition to a mosaic on the wall depicting the Angel of Victory laying a tribute on the tombs of the dead, are bronze tablets containing the names of nearly 1,000 men of the Army and Navy who lost their lives at sea.

THEY REST BESIDE BRITISH COMRADES

At Brookwood the American cemetery is part of a large British cemetery established many years ago. Here the American section adjoins one used for British war burials, which contains many of their fallen Colonial forces. The 466 American members who lie here were brought together after the Armistice from various places in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and represent those who died in Great Britain or lost their lives in its surrounding waters.

The color note of the interior of the chapel is effective. The walls are mainly of brownish stone with dark-red marble pillars.

A cross, carved in the wall and gilded,

forms the background to the altar. On these walls appear the names of many members of the Army and Navy who were lost at sea, or died and were given an ocean burial. The architect was Egerton Swark-wout, of New York.

THOSE WHO SERVED BEHIND THE LINES

To commemorate the achievements of more than 650,000 members of the A. E. F. who, working behind the lines, made possible the brilliant feats of the men at the front, a memorial fountain has been constructed at Tours, headquarters of the Services of Supply. The architect was Arthur Loomis Harmon, of New York.

On the lower circular basin is carved the dedicatory inscription, and below the upper basin appear in bas-relief the coats of arms of Tours, Brest, St. Nazaire, Le Mans, Is-sur-Tille, Nevers, Neuchâteau, and Bordeaux—French cities where were located American supply depots.

Figures on the upper basin represent Administration, Construction, Procurement, and Distribution, the four principal divisions of the Services of Supply organization connected with fulfilling the requirements of the 2,057,907 American troops who came to European soil.

The crowning feature is a bronze group depicting an American Indian about to release an eagle. This figure recently won a gold medal in architectural competition in the United States.

On the outside of the city hall at Souilly, Meuse, and at the Damrémont Barracks at Chaumont, Haute-Marne, were placed ornamental bronze tablets. The building at Souilly served as headquarters of the American First Army from September 21, 1918, to the end of the hostilities, and from here was conducted the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Previously, in 1916, Marshal Pétain, as General Commandant of the Second French Army, had established his headquarters here when directing the Battle of Verdun. It continued to be the center of operations for that army from May 1, 1916, to September 21, 1918, under the successive commands of Generals Nivelle, Guillaumat, and Hirschauer.

TO THE WATCHDOGS OF THE SEA

The Chaumont Barracks were selected as the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces in directing, between



Photograph from Rome

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE FRENCH WAR DEAD

Pilgrims to the burial place of their sons in France file by the grave of the Unknown French Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe in memorial services in Paris.



Photograph by Lewis L. Wilson

THE NATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEADS IN TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICANS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD WAR

Before the white marble tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, President Roosevelt stands with bowed head while Mrs. Roosevelt places yellow chrysanthemums at the shrine on Armistice Day, November 11, 1933. A bugle sounds the hour of 11 o'clock, at which time the war was ended, and then for a minute solemn silence prevails. Each year this impressive scene is enacted at the hallowed spot on the Virginia hills across the Potomac from the National Capital.



Photograph by W. Robert Nace

THE ONLY AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY ON BELGIAN SOIL

In Flanders Field Cemetery at Wazeghem, Belgium, are buried nearly 400 men who fell in the Ypres-Lys Offensive of August, 1918, and in the Allied drive in the last weeks of the war. Bright red poppies, immortalized in the famous poem by John McCrae, nod their heads among the graves in summer. The architect, Paul P. Eret, of Philadelphia.

September 1, 1917, and July 11, 1919, the activities of more than 2,000,000 American soldiers.

To the American naval forces during the war fell the task of convoying troops and supply ships and conducting constant warfare against the submarine menace.

At Brest, near the point where Brittany thrusts farthest into the Atlantic, was established the chief base of operations. It became the principal port of debarkation of troops, and later the main point of embarkation when the American soldiers were being repatriated after the Armistice.

During the months of July and August, 1918, more than 3,000,000 tons of shipping were convoyed in and out of French ports by the vessels based at Brest, with the loss of less than one-tenth of one per cent.

The rectangular monument commemorating the splendid activities of the American and French Navies has been erected on the Cours Dajot, overlooking the harbor, the estuary, and the Elorn River (see Color Plate VI and illustration, page 15).

On its faces, besides the dedicatory inscriptions in English and French, are sculptural decorations of the trident, symbol of Neptune; American eagles; an interlaced anchor and dauphine; a sea monster; sea horses; crossed anchors; coat of arms of the United States Navy; and the shield of the United States.

Down on the grim rock of Gibraltar, base of operations of many American vessels, has been erected a memorial masonry archway and flights of steps connecting the naval yards to the town, which is located



Photograph by W. Robert Stone

HERE WATCHED THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND

From an observatory on this hill, now topped by the Somme-Py Monument, tradition says Kaiser Wilhelm II himself, at Ludendorff's side, followed the progress of their desperate, ill-starred offensive of July 15, 1918. This vantage point in the Champagne district was held by the Germans throughout most of the war. Trenches and shell holes may be seen around the monument. The architect, Arthur Loomis Harmon, of New York.



Photograph by W. Robert Moore

WHERE THE A. E. F. FIRST SHOWED ITS FIGHTING STEEL

Going over the top on May 28, 1918, the First Division captured Cantigny and held it against repeated counter-attacks. The architect, Arthur Louisa Harmon, of New York.



Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

DEDICATING THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S MEMORIAL AT CANTIGNY

To commemorate the first American victory in the World War, the capture of Cantigny, The Society in 1919 presented to the village a complete water-supply system and this fountain. The fountain was later removed by the National Geographic Society, as this site was desired for the national monument shown above.



Photograph from American Battle Monuments Commission

ALL PARIS IS SPREAD BELOW THE SURESNES CEMETERY

The chapel on the heights commands a magnificent view of the French capital. On almost a straight line from the gates is the Sacred Heart Cathedral, crowning the eminence of Montmartre. At the right is the Arc de Triomphe (see Color Plate VIII).

at a higher level (see illustration, page 6). The American naval forces established here carried out many raids on submarines. During July and August, 1918, they escorted 25 per cent of all Mediterranean convoys to French ports, as well as 70 per cent of all convoys to British ports from Gibraltar.

The battle areas of Europe have been largely rehabilitated, and to-day the increasing numbers of visitors see little that resembles the scenes of devastation visible just after the war.

Most of the towns and villages near the former battle lines were practically destroyed by heavy shellfire during four years of warfare. With few exceptions they have been rebuilt, usually along modern lines.

SOME AREAS IN WARTIME STATE

Vast agricultural districts have been reclaimed, and the land again smiles under cultivation. This restoration involved the salvaging of barbed wire, unexploded shells, and other debris on the battlefields, as well as the filling and leveling of networks of trenches and shelters.

Ypres, a city of 18,000 people before the war, had not a single house standing when the Armistice was signed. It now is almost completely rebuilt. New statues are being placed in the niches of its old cathedral, and the central tower is nearly completed. Soissons, scene of 32 major battles or sieges during its eventful annals, was badly damaged, but is practically restored.

In a few localities little reconstruction has taken place, though most of the debris has been salvaged. Throughout the vicinity of the badly battered French forts, north of Verdun and over large areas of the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel battlefields, the ground surface still is pocked with thousands of shell holes. Certain villages in these regions have not been rebuilt.

In several localities signs are still posted warning against walking from the paths and building fires because of the danger of explosives.

In the Champagne region, also, there is a considerable area where no reconstruction has taken place. This is due to the fact that chalky subsoil was thrown to the surface, making it unprofitable to cultivate the



Photograph by Irving Aizen

HELPING THEIR MEMORY BRIGHT

Soldiers fire a Memorial Day salute over the graves of their comrades buried in France. Flowers and French and American flags have been placed beside the headstones.

ground again. The towns in these areas were literally obliterated by the terrific bombardments.

Certain sections are being preserved in their wartime state as exhibits of the conditions under which the troops served. On Vimy Ridge, in the vicinity of the Canadian War Memorial, is a graphic example. The nearest to Paris where visitors can see trenches in their unreclaimed state is Belleau Wood. This historic spot, whose story is familiar to every American, was purchased shortly after the war by an association of American veterans, and has since been transferred to the Battle Monuments Commission.

At many places through the war areas other nations have erected monuments commemorating the sacrifices that were made.

Because the project of our Government fully covers all phases of the activities of the American forces in Europe, it has been the policy of the Commission, strongly supported by the French and Belgian Governments, to discourage the erection of memorials not of a utilitarian nature by nongovernment agencies. With our pro-

gram accomplished, any additional monuments would result in unbalanced commemoration.

During the last four years nearly 6,700 of the 17,000 Gold Star Mothers and Widows have visited the American cemeteries in Europe as guests of the United States Government. They have been conducted to the various places by officials of the American Graves Registration Service, which organization has charge of the perpetual care of the cemeteries and memorials. At the completion of these pilgrimages the members have written: "We are going back to our homes with a feeling of great satisfaction that we now know where our loved ones lie, and that they rest in such beautiful and peaceful spots, while their deeds are perpetuated in wonderful memorials of marble and stone."

To the other Gold Star Mothers, to relatives of soldier dead, and to every American citizen, I can give assurance that the United States Government has kept and will continue to maintain its trust in perpetuating the memory of the bravery and sacrifices of our World War heroes. "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."